Out of the above, Regional Offices at Delhi, Patna and Hyderabad already exist. The Regional Office at Vadodara is to be set up by conversion of the existing Sardar Sarovar Chief Engineer's office at Vadodara to a regional office by 1992-93. The Southern Regional office at Bangalore and North Eastern Regional Office at Shillong are being set up by shifting the Chief Engineer's office in New Delhi.

Incurring of an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 14 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 16 lakhs recurring by Central Water Commission, which will be met from within the Non-Plan budget provision of Central Water Commission during the year 1991-92 has also been agreed to in principle.

The Decentralisation envisages:

(a) Effective coordination between project authorities and Central Water Commission for speedy solution to the problems of project authorities.

(b) Effective and speedy monitoring and appraisal of Medium Irrigation Projects under construction.

(c) Better coordination in data collection from field units and State Government agencies.

(d) Better local coordination and liaison with other offices in the field of Water Resources Development Irrigation Management etc.

Further decentralisation measures are linked up with the Cadre Review Proposals of the Central Water Engineering (Group 'A') Service. It is proposed to entrust additional activities like the monitoring of the Command Area Development Programme, environmental measures, resettlement programmes for people from the submergence areas, externally assisted projects and dam safety inspections to the field offices of the Central Water Commission, after the field posts are appropriately upgraded.

Waiting List for Telephone connections in Jabalpur, M.P.

@*227. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons at present in waiting list for telephone connections in Jabalpur city in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what is the average time taken for getting a telephone connection; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The number of persons in waiting list as on 31-10-91 at Jabalpur city category-wise is as follows:

General	6005
Special	232
OYT	141
Total	6378

(b) Waiting list clearance position category-wise is as follows:

General	12-4-88
OYT General & OYT Special	15-4-91

(c) An expansion of 2000 lines electronic exchange at Jabalpur has been completed on 23-11-1991. The Department of Telecom has formulated draft 8th Five Year Plan and by the end of the Plan it is envisaged:

—provide telephone connections practically on demand in rural and tribal areas;

—waiting period for telephone connections not to exceed two years at other places.

@Previously Unstarred Question 85, Transferred from 27th November, 1991.

Expansion plans are being drawn for providing telephone connections in the State of Madhya Pradesh complying the above objectives. It is proposed to substantially reduce the waiting list as indicated above by end of the 8th Plan at Jabalpur and also in Madhya Pradesh.

Celebration of World Heritage Week

*228. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Heritage was celebrated at Aurangabad in November, 1991;

(b) if so, the objectives for such celebration;

(c) whether such Heritage weeks are proposed to be celebrated in future at different places in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The World Heritage Week was celebrated at Ajanta and Ellora Caves located in District Aurangabad, Maharashtra from 19th to 25th November, 1991.

(b) The main objectives of the celebrations were to seek cooperation of the general public and to create awareness among the people in the preservation of cultural heritage and natural environment of the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Every year, the World Heritage Week is celebrated in the premises of various protected monuments, including those which are in the World Heritage list.

Merger of National Seeds Corporation with State Farms Corporation of India

*229. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated loss sustained by the National Seeds Corporation;

(b) the reasons for the losses;

(c) whether functions/objectives of the State Farms Corporation overlap with the National Seeds Corporation;

(d) whether Government propose to merge National Seeds Corporation with State Farms Corporation of India to make it a viable unit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what other package programmes are being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The accumulated loss of the National Seeds Corporation as on 31st March, 1991 was Rs 2450.91 lakhs.

(b) It has been found that losses are because of:—

(i) Increase in input prices and procurement prices paid to the seed growers without corresponding increase in the sale price of seed;

(ii) Increase in fixed overhead expenses on account of allowances of the staff of the Corporation as per recommendations of High Powered Pay Committee (HPCC);

(iii) Heavy interest burden;

(iv) Under utilisation of infrastructural facilities created under National Seeds Project Phase-I & II due to cut-back in production;

(v) Reduction in marketing segment of NSC due to competition from State Seeds Corporation (SSCs) and private seed industry; and

(vi) Excess staff.

(c) Although both National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India are engaged in production of foundation seed and certified seed, several of their functions are different from each other. SFCI is producing seeds at its own Farms and is also undertaking horticultural